

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

JOHN C. CALHOUN'S VISION.

The following most remarkable and singular story was furnished for the Philadelphia *Quaker City*, in the winter of 1849-50, by its Washington correspondent, and was at the time quite generally copied into the leading papers of the day. A renewal of the exciting scenes of that time render the supernatural lesson particularly appropriate for to-day. Read it, all you who would sever with unhalloved hands the sacred bonds that unite in peace and prosperity all the God-given blessings that have descended to us from former generations. Read it, all you who would raise an unhallowed hand to pluck a single star from our national escutcheon, or erase a single stripe from the banner of the free. Read it, all ye who deliberately and unblushingly lay plans for the dismemberment of all that the true American holds dear, and the true patriot cherishes as his blood-bought birthright, and remember, that though that hand may be palsied in this life, yet the mark of the traitor shall rest upon it in the world to come.

MR. CALHOUN'S DREAM.

Mr. Editor: The other morning, at the breakfast-table, our friend, the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, seemed very much troubled and out of spirits. You know he is altogether a venerable man, with a hard, stern, Scotch-Irish face, softened in its expression around the mouth by a sort of sad smile, which wins the eye of all who converse with him. His hair is snowy white. He is thin, tall, and angular. He reminds you of Old Hickory. That he is honest, no one doubts; he has sacrificed to his fatalism his brightest hope of political advancement—which he offered up, on the shrine of that necessity which he worships, all that can excite ambition—even the Presidency of the United States.

But to my story: The other morning at the breakfast-table, where I, an unobserved spectator, happened to be present, Calhoun was observed to gaze at his right hand, and brush it with his left in a hurried and nervous manner. He did this so often that it excited attention. At length, one of the persons composing the breakfast party, (Toombs, a member of Congress from Georgia,) took it upon himself to ask the occasion of Mr. Calhoun's disquietude.

"Does your hand pain you?" he asked.

To this Mr. Calhoun replied, in rather a hurried manner, "Pshaw! It is nothing! Only a dream which I had last night, and that makes me so perpetually a black spot—like an ink blot—upon the back of my right hand; an optical illusion, I suppose."

Of course these words excited the curiosity of the company, but no one begged the details of this singular dream, until Toombs asked, quietly:

"What was your dream like? I am not very superstitious about dreams, but sometimes there is a good deal of truth in them."

"But this was such a peculiarly absurd dream," said Mr. Calhoun, again brushing the back of his right hand; "however, if it does not too much intrude upon the time of our friends, I will relate it to you."

Of course the company were profuse in their expressions of anxiety to know all about the dream. In his singularly sweet voice, Mr. Calhoun related it:

"At a late hour last night, as I was sitting in my room engaged in writing, I was astonished by the entrance of a visitor, who, without a word, took a seat opposite me at my table. This surprised me, as I had given particular orders to a servant that I should on no occasion be disturbed. The manner in which the intruder entered, so perfectly self-possessed, taking his seat opposite me without a word, as though my room and all within it belonged to him, excited within me as much surprise as indignation. As I raised my head, he spoke:

"What are you doing, Senator from South Carolina?"

"I did not think of the impertinence at first, but answered him voluntarily:

"I am writing a plan for the dissolution of the American Union! (You know, gentlemen, I am expected to produce a plan of dissolution in the event of certain contingencies.)"

"To this the intruder replied in the coolest manner possible:

"Senator from South Carolina, will you allow me to look at your hand—your right hand?"

"He rose; the cloak fell, and I beheld his face. Gentleman, the sight of that struck me like a thunder-clap. It was the face of George Washington, whom extraordinary events had called back to life. The features were those of General George Washington; yes, gentlemen, the intruder was none other than George Washington. He was dressed in Revolutionary costume such as you see preserved in the Patent Office."

Here Mr. Calhoun paused, apparently much agitated. His agitation, I need not tell you, was shared by the company. Mr. Toombs at length broke the embarrassing pause. Well, what was the issue of this scene?" Mr. Calhoun resumed:

"The intruder, as I have said, rose and asked to look at my right hand. As though I had not the power to refuse, I extended it. The truth is, I felt a strange thrill pervade me at his touch; he grasped it, and held it near the light, thus affording me full time to examine every feature of his face. It was the face of George Washington, gentlemen, as I shuddered as I beheld the horrible death-like look of that visage. After holding my hand for a moment, he looked at me steadily, and said, in a quiet way:

"And with this hand, Senator from South Carolina, you would sign your name to a paper declaring the Union dissolved?"

"I answered in the affirmative. 'Yes,' said I, 'if a certain contingency arises, I will sign my name to the Declaration of Disunion.' But at that moment a black blot appeared on the back of my hand—an ink blot, which I seem to see now. 'What is that?' cried I, alarmed, I know not why, at the blotch upon my hand.

"That," said he, dropping my hand, "is the mark by which Benedict Arnold is known in the next world."

"He said no more, gentlemen, but drew from beneath his cloak an object which he placed upon the table—writing it upon the very paper upon which I was writing. That object was a skeleton.

"There," said he, 'there are the bones of Isaac Hayne, who was hung at Charleston by the British. He gave his life in order to establish the Union. When you put your name to a declaration of disunion, you may as well have the bones of Isaac Hayne before you. He was a South Carolinian, and so are you. But there was no blotch upon his right hand."

"With these words, the intruder left the room. I started back from the contact with the dead man's bones, and—awoke. Overcome with labor, I had fallen asleep, and had been dreaming. Was it not a singular dream?"

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Organization of the Departments.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

The whole machinery employed to conduct the business arising out of our foreign relations with all the Powers of the world is far more simple than is generally conceived. The number employed in the Department of State of the United States is only twenty-eight, as follows: One Secretary of State, (Hon. Lewis Cass,) one Assistant Secretary of State, (Hon. John Appleton,) one Chief Clerk, one Superintendent of Statistics, twenty-two Clerks, one Translator, and one Librarian.

Diplomatic Branch.—This branch of the State Department has charge of all correspondence between the Department and other diplomatic agents of the United States abroad, and those of foreign Powers accredited to this Government. In it all diplomatic instructions sent from the Department, and communications to commissions, or under treaties of boundaries, &c., are prepared, copied, and recorded; and all of like character received are registered and filed, their contents being first entered in an analytic table or index.

Consular Branch.—This branch has charge of the correspondence, &c., between the Department and the consuls and commercial agents of the United States. In it instructions to those officers, and answers to their dispatches and to letters from other persons asking for consular agency, or relating to consular affairs, are prepared and recorded.

The Disbursing Agent.—He has charge of all correspondence and other matters connected with accounts relating to any fund with the disbursement of which the Department is charged.

The Translator.—His duties are to furnish such translations as the Department may require. He also records the commissions of consuls and vice consuls, when not in English, upon which exequaturs are issued.

Clerk of Appointments and Commissions.—He makes out and records commissions, letters of appointment, and nominations to the Senate; makes out and records exequaturs, and records, when in English, the commissions on which they are issued. Has charge of the library.

Clerk of the Rolls and Archives.—He takes charge of the rolls, or enrolled acts and resolutions of Congress, as they are received at the Department from the President; prepares the authenticated copies thereof which are called for; prepares for, and superintends their publication, and that of treaties, in the newspapers and in book form; attends to their distribution throughout the United States, and that of all documents and publications in regard to which this duty is assigned to the Department; writing and answering all letters connected therewith. Has charge of all Indian treaties, and business relating thereto.

Clerk of Territorial Business.—The Seal of the Department, &c.—He has charge of the seal of the Department, and of the Department, and prepares and attests certificates to papers presented for authentication; has charge of the Territorial business; immigration and registered seamen; records all letters from the Department, other than the diplomatic and consular.

Clerk of Pardons and Passports.—He prepares and records pardons and remissions; and registers and files the petitions and papers on which they are founded. Makes out and records passports; keeps a daily register of all letters, other than diplomatic and consular, received, and of the disposition made of them; prepares letters relating to this business.

Superintendent of Statistics.—He superintends the preparation of the "Annual Report of the Secretary of State and Foreign Commerce," as required by the acts of 1842 and 1856.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, Attorney General of the United States; A. B. McCalmont, Esq., Assistant. The ordinary business of this office may be classified under the following heads:

1. Official opinions on the current business of the Government, as called for by the President, by any head of Department, or by the Solicitor of the Treasury.
2. Examination of the titles of all land purchased, as the sites of arsenals, custom-houses, light-houses, and all other public works of the United States.
3. Applications for pardons in all cases of conviction in the courts of the United States.
4. Applications for appointment in all the judicial and legal business of the Government.
5. The conduct and argument of all suits in the Supreme Court of the United States in which the Government is concerned.
6. The supervision of all other suits arising in any of the Departments, when referred by the head thereof to the Attorney General.

To these ordinary heads of the business of the office is added at the present time the direction of all appeals on land claims in California.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Hon. Jacob Thompson, of the State of Mississippi. Its clerical force consists of one Chief Clerk, (Moses Kelly, Esq.,) two Disbursing Clerks, and ten other regular Clerks; and to its supervision and management are committed the following branches of the public service:

1. **The Public Lands.**—The chief of this bureau is called the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The Land Bureau is charged with all the business, and sale of the public domain, and the issuing of titles thereto, whether derived from confirmations of grants made by former Governments, by sales, donations, or grants for schools, military bounties, or public improvements, and likewise the revision of Virginia military bounty-land claims, and the issuing of scrip in lieu thereof. The Land Office, also, audits its own accounts. The present Commissioner is Joseph S. Wilson. Its principal officers are a Recorder, Chief Clerk, and also acts as Commissioner ad interim, Principal Clerk of Surveys, besides a Draughtsman, Assistant Draughtsman, and some 150 Clerks of various grades.

2d. **Pensions.**—The present head of this bureau is George C. Whiting, of Virginia. The Commissioner is charged with the examination and adjudication of all claims arising under the various and numerous laws passed by Congress granting bounty land or pensions for the military or naval service of the revolutionary and subsequent wars in which the United States have been engaged. He has one Chief Clerk, John Robb, Esq., and a permanent corps, consisting of some seventy other Clerks.

3d. **Indian.**—Commissioner of Indian Affairs, A. B. Greenwood, of Arkansas. He is provided with a Chief Clerk, and about fifteen other subordinate Clerks.

4th. **Patent Office.**—Hon. Philip F. Thomas, of Maryland, Commissioner of Patents. To this bureau is committed the execution and performance of all "acts and things touching and respecting the granting and issuing of patents for new and useful discoveries, inventions, and improvements;" the collection of statistics relating to agriculture; the collection and distribution of seeds, plants, and cuttings. It has a Chief Clerk—who is by law the acting Commissioner of Patents in the absence of the Commissioner—twelve principal and twelve assistant examiners of Patents, some dozen subordinate permanent Clerks, besides a considerable number of temporary employees. Samuel T. Shugart, Esq., Chief Clerk.

An act passed at the last session of Congress provided that all books, maps, charts, and other publications, heretofore deposited in the Department of State, according to the laws regulating copyrights, should be removed to the Department of the Interior, which is charged with all the duties of the Patent Office, and receives from the First Comptroller and Commissioner of Customs all accounts and

fees, as belonging most appropriately to this branch of the service.

Behind these four principal branches of this new Executive Department, the organic act of 1849 transferred to it from the Treasury Department the supervision of the accounts of the United States Marshals and Attorneys, and the Clerks of the United States Courts, the management of the land and other mines of the United States, and the affairs of the penitentiary of the United States in the District of Columbia; and from the State Department the duty of taking and returning the censuses of the United States, and of superintending and directing the acts of the Commissioner of Public Buildings. The Hospital for the Insane of the army and navy and of the District of Columbia is also under the management of this Department; in addition to which, by laws recently passed, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the construction of the three wagon roads leading to the Pacific coast.

Under act of February 5, 1859, "providing for keeping and distributing all public documents, all the books, documents, &c., printed or purchased by the Government," the Annals of Congress, American State Papers, American Archives, Jefferson's and Adams's Works, are transferred to this Department from the State Department, Library of Congress, and elsewhere; also, the Journals and Documents of the Thirty-fifth Congress. These valuable works are distributed to those who are by law entitled to receive them, and to such "colleges, public libraries, academies, literary and scientific institutions, boards of trade, or public associations," as shall be designated by the members of Congress.

The Department requires an additional building for its accommodation, and the erection of one has been repeatedly recommended during the last few years for that purpose. At present, the Pension Office is provided with rooms in what is known as "Winder's Building," while the other branches of the Department, including the Secretary's office, are all crowded into the Patent Office building, the whole of which will be required at an early day for the use of the Patent Office, for which it was originally intended.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The Treasury Department consists of the offices of the Secretary of the Treasury, two Comptrollers, Commissioner of the Customs, six Auditors, Treasurer, Register, Solicitor, Light-house Board, and Coast Survey.

The following is a brief indication of the duties of these several offices, and of the force employed therein, respectively:

Secretary's Office.—Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury; Hon. Philip Clary, Assistant Secretary; one Engineer in Charge; one Architect, and three Draughtsmen temporarily employed, and twenty-three Clerks. The Secretary of the Treasury is charged with the general supervision of the fiscal transactions of the Government, and of the execution of the laws concerning the commerce and navigation of the United States. He superintends the survey of the coast, the light-house establishment, the marine hospitals of the United States, and the construction of certain public buildings for custom-houses and other purposes.

First Comptroller's Office.—Hon. William Medill, Comptroller, and fifteen Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering accounts for the civil and diplomatic service, as well as the public lands, and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

Second Comptroller's Office.—J. M. Cutts, Esq., Comptroller, and seventeen Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of the Army, Navy, and Indian departments of the public service, and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

Office of Commissioners of Customs.—Samuel Inglish, Esq., Commissioner, and eleven Clerks. He prescribes the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of the customs, revenue, and disbursements, and for the building and repairing custom-houses, &c., and revises and certifies the balances arising thereon.

First Auditor's Office.—Thomas L. Smith, Esq., First Auditor, and nineteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts the accounts of the customs revenue and disbursements, appropriations and expenditures on account of the civil list, and under private acts of Congress, and reports the balances to the Commissioner of the Customs and the First Comptroller, respectively, for their decision thereon.

Second Auditor's Office.—Thomas J. D. Fuller, Second Auditor, and twenty-one Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts relating to the pay, clothing, and recruiting of the army, as well as armories, arsenals, and ordnance, and all accounts relating to the Indian department, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Third Auditor's Office.—Robert J. Atkinson, Esq., Third Auditor, and seventy-eight Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts for subsistence of the army, fortifications, Military Academy, military roads, and the Quartermaster's department, as well as for pensions, claims arising from military services previous to 1816, and for losses and other property lost in the military service, under various acts of Congress, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Fourth Auditor's Office.—A. J. O'Bannon, Esq., Fourth Auditor, and sixteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts for the service of the Navy Department, and reports the balances to the Second Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Fifth Auditor's Office.—Bartholomew Fuller, Esq., Fifth Auditor, and six Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts for diplomatic and similar services performed under the direction of the State Department, and reports the balances to the First Comptroller, for his decision thereon.

Sixth Auditor's Office.—Dr. Thomas M. Tate, Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, and one hundred and fourteen Clerks. He receives and adjusts all accounts arising from the service of the Post Office Department. His decisions are final, unless an appeal be taken in twelve months to the First Comptroller. He superintends the collection of all duties on the Post Office Department, and all penalties and forfeitures imposed on postmasters and mail contractors for failing to do their duty; he directs suits and legal proceedings, civil and criminal, and takes all such measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the prompt payment of moneys due to the Department; instructing United States attorneys, marshals, and clerks, on all matters relating thereto; and receives returns from each term of the United States courts, of the condition and progress of such suits and legal proceedings; has charge of all lands and other property assigned to the United States in payment of debts due the Post Office Department, and has power to sell and dispose of the same for the benefit of the United States.

Treasurer's Office.—Samuel Casey, Esq., Treasurer, and thirteen Clerks. He receives and keeps the moneys of the United States in his own office, and that of the depositories created by the act of the 6th of August, 1846, and pays out the same upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury, countersigned by the First Comptroller, and upon warrants drawn by the Postmaster General, and countersigned by the Sixth Auditor, and recorded by the Register. He also holds public moneys advanced by warrant to disbursing officers, and pays out the same upon their checks.

Register's Office.—Finley Bigger, Esq., Register, and twenty-nine Clerks. He keeps the accounts of public receipts and expenditures; receives and returns all moneys and the official statement of moneys and navigation of the United States; and receives from the First Comptroller and Commissioner of Customs all accounts and

vouchers decided by them, and is charged by law with their safe keeping.

Solicitor's Office.—Hon. Junius Hillyer, Solicitor, and six Clerks. He superintends all civil suits commenced by the United States, (except those arising in the Post Office Department,) and instructs the United States attorneys, marshals, and clerks, in all matters relating to them and their results. He receives returns from each term of the United States courts, showing the progress and condition of such suits; has charge of all bonds and other property assigned to the United States in payment of debts, (except those assigned in payment of debts due the Post Office Department,) and has power to sell and dispose of the same for the benefit of the United States.

Light-house Board.—Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, ex-officio President; Com. W. B. Shubrick, United States Navy, Chairman; Commander E. G. Tilton, United States Navy; Major A. H. Bowman, Corps of Engineers, United States Army; Capt. A. A. Humphreys, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army; Prof. Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Prof. A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey; and Captain Raphael Semmes, United States Navy, and Captain W. F. Smith, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army, members, the last two being also Secretaries; and five Clerks. This board directs the building and repairing of light-houses, light-vessels, beacons, and buoys, contracts for supplies, and governs the personnel of the establishment.

United States Coast Survey.—Professor A. D. Bache, LL. D., Superintendent, and Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

Capt. William R. Palmer, Corps Topographical Engineers, United States Army, in charge of the Coast Survey Office; Lieut. A. P. Hill, United States Army, Assistant.

Assistant W. P. Trowbridge, computer of longitudes.

Assistant Chas. A. Schott, in charge of computing division.

Assistant L. F. Pourtales, in charge of tidal division.

Lieut. Thomas Wilson, United States Army, in charge of drawing division.

Mr. Edward Wharton, acting in charge of engraving division.

Lieut. John R. Smead, United States Army, in charge of miscellaneous divisions.

Samuel Hein, Disbursing Agent.

George Mathiot, Electrotypist.

Joseph Saxton, Assistant to Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Hon. Joseph Holt, Postmaster General. The direction and management of the Post Office Department are assigned by the Constitution and laws to the Postmaster General. That its business may be the more conveniently arranged and prepared for his final action, it is distributed among several bureaus, as follows: The Appointment Office, in charge of the First Assistant Postmaster General; the Contract Office, in charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster General; the Finance Office, in charge of the Third Assistant Postmaster General; and the Inspection Office, in charge of the Chief Clerk.

Appointment Office.—Horatio King, Esq., First Assistant Postmaster General, and nineteen Clerks. To this office are assigned all questions which relate to the establishment and discontinuance of post offices, changes of sites and names, appointment and removal of postmasters, and route and local agents, as also the giving of instructions to postmasters. Postmasters are furnished with marking and rating stamps and letter balances by this bureau, which is charged also with providing blanks and stationery for the use of the Department, and with the superintendence of the several agencies established for supplying postmasters with blanks. To this bureau is likewise assigned the supervision of the ocean mail steamship lines, and of the foreign and international postal arrangements.

Contract Office.—William H. Dundas, Esq., Second Assistant Postmaster General, and twenty-six Clerks. To this office is assigned the business of arranging the mail service of the United States, and placing the same under contract, embracing all correspondence and proceedings respecting the frequency of trips, mode of conveyance, and times of departures and arrivals on all the routes; the course of the mail between the different cities, and the regulation of the points of mail distribution, and the regulations for the government of the domestic mail service of the United States. It prepares the advertisements for mail proposals, receives the bids, and takes charge of the annual and occasional mail lettings, and the adjustment and execution of the contracts. All applications for the establishment or alteration of mail arrangements, and the appointment of Mail Messengers, should be sent to this office. All claims should be submitted to it for transportation service not under contract, as the recognition of said service is first to be obtained through the Contract Office, as a necessary authority for the proper credits at the Auditor's Office. From this office all postmasters at the ends of routes receive the statement of mail arrangements prescribed for the respective routes. It reports weekly to the Auditor all contracts executed, and all orders affecting accounts for mail transportation; prepares the statistics of all lettings of the mail service, and the reports of the mail service, giving a statement of each bid; also, of the contracts made, the new service originated, the curtailments ordered, and the additional allowances granted within the year.

Finance Office.—A. N. Zevly, Esq., Third Assistant Postmaster General, and twenty-one Clerks. To this office are assigned the supervision and management of the financial business of the Department, not devolved by law upon the Auditor, embracing accounts with the draft of the issue of warrants and drafts in payment of balances reported by the Auditor to be due to mail contractors and other persons, the supervision of the accounts of officers under orders to deposit their quarterly balances at designated points, and the superintendence of the rendition by postmasters of their quarterly returns of postage. It has charge of the Dead-Letter Office, of the issuing of postage stamps and stamped envelopes for the pre-payment of postage, and of the accounts connected therewith.

To the Third Assistant Postmaster General all postmasters should direct their quarterly returns of postage; those at draft offices, their letters certifying of deposit; to him should also be directed the weekly and monthly returns of the depositories of the Department, as well as all applications and receipts for postage stamps and stamped envelopes, and for dead letters.

Inspection Office.—Benj. N. Clements, Esq., Chief Clerk, and seventeen Clerks. To this office is assigned the duty of receiving and examining the registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, and reports of mail failures; of noting the delinquencies of contractors, and preparing cases thereon for the action of the Postmaster General; furnishing blanks for mail registers, and reports of mail failures; providing and sending out mail bags and mail locks and keys, and doing all other things which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of all mail contracts.

All cases of mail depredation, or violation of law by private express, or by the forging or illegal use of postage stamps, are under the supervision of this office, and should be reported to it.

All communications respecting lost money, letters, mail depredations, or other violations of law, or mail locks and keys, should be directed, as Chief Clerk, Post Office Department, to the Chief Clerk, Post Office Department, and

All registers of the arrivals and departures of

the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, reports of mail failures, applications for blank registers, and reports of failures, and all complaints against contractors for irregular or imperfect service, should be directed, "Inspection Office, Post Office Department."